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made "to incorporate the utterances of the prophets with the special incidents of contemporary history to which so many of them relate." The writer aptly describes their prophetic utterances as the "pulpit literature of the day." Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah XL.-LXVI., Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are presented in their historical connection, and receive great light from a study of this connection. In reference to this series, now that it is complete, we may say :

1) There are few men who can cover to good advantage in so short a time (five years) so much ground ; and it may fairly be questioned whether Dr. Geikie has not hurried his work. There are certainly evidences here and there that his material has not been so thoroughly digested as it might have been. The success of the first volume, doubtless, led him to finish the work within a shorter time than he would otherwise have done.

2) In many chapters, there is a lack of that unity, the existence of which is necessary if the reader is to have a satisfied feeling when his perusal of the chapter has been finished. No clear outline suggests itself. One paragraph runs into another. The reader pushes on headlong till the end is reached and then feels, that "to get hold of the matter" he must go back and analyze it.

3) Notwithstanding this, it is probable that no series of books ever published on the Old Testament, has been more popular ; or more helpful to the general reading public. Their study cannot fail to give the student a broader, better, truer knowledge of Bible men, Bible events and Bible truths. The method employed is the only method to understand aright the Book. This work ought to be on the shelf of every man who professes to be a searcher after the truth.

TYNDALE'S PENTATEUCH.*

The thanks of scholars are due the Rev. J. I. Mombert for the labor involved in bringing out this magnificent edition of Tyndale's Pentateuch. But one perfect copy of the edition of 1530 is known to be in existence. All other copies are in some respect deficient. This translation was the first ever made into English from the Hebrew original. That Tyndale did not translate from the Latin and German versions is clearly seen on every page. The reasons which have led to the present issue are stated to be these :—"It is designed to be a grateful tribute to the memory of the martyr-translator ; to make this noble version, which as a first translation is not excelled by any other with which I am acquainted, generally accessible to Bible readers ; to *fix* its text by actual collation with different editions ; to establish its relations to the Latin and German versions ; to furnish a contemporary commentary in the notes of Luther and Rogers, and to enrich the philology of the language with a copious vocabulary."

Among the interesting material collected in the Prolegomena is a photographic copy of an autograph-letter written by Tyndale while in prison at Vilvorde, in the winter of 1535. The translation reads as follows :—"I believe, most excellent Sir, that you are not unacquainted with the decision reached concerning me. On which account, I beseech your lordship, even by the Lord Jesus, that if I am to

* WILLIAM TYNDALE'S FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES, CALLED THE PENTATEUCH, being a verbatim reprint of the edition of M.CCCC.XXX. compared with Tyndale's Genesis of 1534, and the Pentateuch in the Vulgate, Luther, and Matthew's Bible, with various collations and prolegomena. By the Rev. J. I. Mombert, D. D. New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co. Pp. 635. Price \$5. [First edition limited to five hundred copies.]

pass the winter here, you will urge upon the lord commissary, if he will deign, to send me from my goods in his keeping a warmer cap; for I suffer greatly from cold in the head, being troubled with a continual catarrh, which is aggravated in this prison vault. A warm coat also; for that which I have is very thin. . . . But above all, I beg and entreat your clemency earnestly to intercede with the lord commissary, that he would deign to allow me the use of my Hebrew Bible, Hebrew Grammar and Hebrew Lexicon, and that I may employ my time with that study." The Prolegomena contains also a most interesting biographical notice of Tyndale, as well as a list of his writings.

Of the Book of Deuteronomy, Tyndale says in the Prologue: "This is a book worthy to be read in day and night, and never to be out of hands. For it is the most excellent of all the books of Moses. It is easy also and light and a very pure gospel, that is to wit a preaching of faith and love; deducing the love to God out of faith, and the love of a man's neighbor out of the love of God. Herein also thou mayst learn right meditation or contemplation, which is nothing else save the calling to mind and a repeating in the heart of the glorious and wonderful deeds of God and of his terrible handling of his enemies, and merciful entreating of them that come when he calleth them, which thing this book doth and almost nothing else."

The quaintness, the simplicity, and the aptness of these prologues is worthy of careful attention.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER.*

For nine years a club of four or five parish ministers living in Lowell, Mass., has been holding weekly meetings for the study of the Old Testament Scriptures in their original tongue. Of this time nearly three years were given in furnishing an exposition of the Sunday School Lessons in their city paper. The last five years have been devoted to the preparation of the book of which notice is here made. The names of these gentlemen are: Rev. Owen Street, D. D., Rev. John W. Haley, M. A., Rev. William P. Alcott, Rev. John M. Greene, D. D.

A book prepared by such men, under such circumstances, deserves special notice. Whatever may be the merit of the work done, the spirit which prompted them to undertake it, and the perseverance which enabled them to continue it year after year, notwithstanding the cares and burdens of their pastoral work, are worthy of all praise.

In this connection we cannot but refer to those most excellent words of Prof. Green, "We need in the ranks of the pastorate, men who can conduct biblical researches and who can prosecute learned critical inquiries; who can do in their own chosen field of Scripture study, what German evangelical pastors have done, —such as Baehr in his "Symbolism of the Mosaic Cultus," and Ranke in the critical defence of the genuineness of the Pentateuch, and Fuller in the interpretation of the Prophet Daniel, and Keil, who published his learned defence of Chronicles and Ezra when he was a licentiate."†

* THE BOOK OF ESTHER; A new translation with Critical Notes, Excursuses, Maps and Plans, and Illustrations. By the LOWELL HEBREW CLUB. Edited by Rev. John W. Haley, M. A. Andover: Warren F. Draper. 8vo pp. 196. Price, \$1.50.

† In *Moses and the Prophets*, p. 32.